

B&B: The Baltic and the Black Sea

The cooperation between the cities located in the Black Sea and the Baltic

One of the most promising development after 1989 political transformations in Europe was the reinvigoration of cooperation between the cities located on the Black and the Baltic Seas' coasts within the framework of emerging formulas of 'twin towns', 'sister cities', 'partnerships' and 'cooperation'. Nowadays, the cities from the Black Sea region (excluding Greece in the Mediterranean Sea area that is a part of the Black Sea initiatives) has the most comprehensive network of ties with the cities of the Baltic countries. However, when compared to the Baltic Sea, the level of regional cooperation amongst the Black Sea cities is well below its potential due to a high level of diversity of the region. In consequence, the Black Sea cities have not managed to establish the Union of Black Sea cities.

From the continental point of view, the distance between the Baltic Sea and The Black Sea merely exceeds 1200 km. By comparison, the border The basins of rivers flowing to both seas create the largest common space in Europe and a comprehensive network of river routes on the North-South Axis. For centuries, the contacts between both seas were intensive and had an important contribution to the history of Europe. During the Migration Period the Goths moved from Scandinavia to the Crimea where they lived until the 17-th century. The Kievan Rus, the largest European state in that period was established as a "trade-company" based on the route going from the Middle East to Scandinavia. In the late Middle Ages, The Polish-Lithuanian Union untied for almost 150 years both Seas. According to Fernand Braudel, a famous French historian, between 15th and 18th century an important trade route was established between Gdansk and Istanbul through Lviv which he called a Polish corridor.

Trade was accompanied by the diffusion of culture and the migration of people. The living legacy of this phenomenon are, amongst other, Swedish villages in Ukrainian provinces bordering the Black Sea and the Tatar community originating from the Crimea that inhabits Lithuania. The vision of alliance between the countries located on both seas emerged particularly in the Polish foreign policy since the 17th century until today (the Intermarium idea). Today, the cooperation between both Seas is evident in transport

projects covering railways (Viking) or express routes (Via Carpatia), development of energy infrastructure (interconnectors, LNG), projects of river channel uniting Oder, Danube and Laba.. These growing links between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea have been also reflected in a domain of 'great politics', in political ideas and concepts of the eastern flank of the NATO, the summits of Central European leaders, the forum Adriatic, Black Sea and the Baltic Sea and the 16+1 initiative gathering China and the Central European countries.

Cooperation between the Black Sea cities and their Baltic partners creates a very timely "window of opportunity" for the Balts to engage and to contribute towards enhancement of regional ties in the Black Sea region. It may also mobilize its cooperation with the European Union. With an objective to facilitate and further encourage existing and new cooperation formats between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea on the municipality level, the Union of the Baltic Cities and WiseEuropa, a Polish private think tank propose to establish an expert platform (*a programme*) which will provide professional expertise and insights into a wide scope but precisely defined of phenomena and issues (ie. culture, history, ecology, economy, energy, local administration, society)for the Baltic and Black sea cities . The platform will gather experts and municipal officials from both regions specializing in various fields and organize thematic seminars. The main outcome of these meetings will be analysis and ready-to-use expertise published regularly (in form of reports, case studies, guidebooks, feasibility studies etc). The seminars will be organized quarterly and the reports will be published with the same frequency. The program will present regularly its achievements during the General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities, if approved by UBC.

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	<i>cost per unit</i>	<i>units</i>	2017		
			<i>total in EUR</i>		
1/ Seminars					
1.1/ Rent of premises for seminars, catering (Gdańsk, Odessa etc.)	2500	4	10000		
1.2/ Travel costs	300	12	3600		[experts and coordinators]
1.3/ Accomodation costs	200	12	2400		[one night]
1.4/ Handouts	10	80	800		
1.5/ Translation for seminar	1500	4	6000		
1.6/ Authors - presentation at seminars	400	8	3200		[two authors]
1.7/ Moderators' fee	500	4	2000		
2/ Reports					
2.1/ Chief editor's Fee	3000	4	12000		
2.2/ Co-author's Fee	2500	8	20000		[two co-authors]
2.3/ Proofreading and DTP	1500	4	6000		
3/ Project's PR and promotion					9,40%
3.1/ Graphic design	3000	1	3000		
3.2/ Dedicated page on wise-europa.eu	1000	1	1000		
3.3/ Promotional support (press releases, social media etc.) (per month)	450	12	5400		
4/ Administration costs					19,80%
4.1/ Coordination of the project (per month)	900	12	10800		
4.2/ Sub-coordination of the project (per month)	450	12	5400		
4.3/ Assistants (per month)	150	24	3600		[two assistants]
					4,80%
5/ Overheads	400	12	4800		
TOTAL					100000 EUR